

**TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING
APRIL 6, 2005
MINUTES**

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mike Richardson welcomed everyone and asked that each person give us their name and who they represent. Several new people are now attending. Mike also announced that there is a grant available for those serving youth offenders. There is \$1 million available for 40-50 programs. DWS has the information on the grant.

UPDATE FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE PERSPECTIVE:

Richard Anderson brought his favorite toy—a clown pedaling a bike with a whirly on top. He explained that sometimes we may feel we are pedaling as hard as possible but feel that we haven't gained much ground or made much progress. He wanted to be clear that through all the hard work of the many partners over the past 16 months—we have worked hard AND have made a lot of progress.

Richard and Pam Russell then showed a brief power point presentation noting the many accomplishments of the past year. Some of those accomplishments are helping youth to continue on Medicaid until age 19, individual counseling from nurses on individual health needs is being provided, the Ansell-Casey Assessment is being done to better assess what skills a youth needs, drivers education leading to obtaining a drivers license is increasing, a transitional support fund has been set up, ETV (Education/Training Vouchers) has assisted 22 youth at six different colleges or universities to attend school, there are two pilot mentoring programs in operation, housing options are increasing, individual mailers are going out to youth every six weeks, training is being done statewide and the website is assisting many youth and professionals alike.

Richard thanked everyone again for their dedicated service and all they had brought to the table to assist in providing additional resources for the youth in transition.

UPDATE FROM A FORMER FOSTER YOUTH:

Rosa McFarland, a former foster youth mentioned how great it is to know there are some resources out there. She said it is starting to feel safer and that there is some help available for foster youth. She thanked everyone for what they were contributing and was also happy she could be part of the Transition to

Adult Living (TAL). She serves on some of the task groups and has been able to give input from the standpoint of the foster youth. (Rosa was thanked for her contributions, as well.)

UPDATE FROM DCFS:

Pam Russell indicated that most of her update had been included in the power point presentation but added that everyone can view what is being sent out to the youth every six weeks in the mailers by going to the following website:

www.justforyouth.utah.gov//mailings

UPDATE FROM DWS:

Jane Broadhead reported that in addition to the ETV funds that have been delivered through DWS or the WIA Youth providers around the state, DWS has also included the TAL guidelines in the policies and procedures. The Department of Labor has come out with some guidelines for serving high-risk youth and TAL has put Utah far ahead of other states. Jane also reported that case staffings are happening around the state. The career planning and job services provided by DWS are expanding statewide. The pathways are in place.

YEAR TWO PLAN:

Amanda Singer passed around a copy of the Year Two Implementation Plan and asked that chairs take time with their task groups to update and/or add to the list of tasks their groups are working on.

Richard Anderson suggested we also keep a log of legislative issues. There are currently two items to add to the log—tuition wavier funding and Medicaid extension funding.

PEW COMMISSION REPORT & COMMITTEE:

Katie Gregory explained that the Pew Commission report studied foster children nationwide and made recommendations on what would improve the system to make things better for foster children. It was intended to break down barriers, eliminate duplication or policies that impede progress and improve services.

Chief Justice Durham and former Governor Olene Walker are co-chairing a committee to implement these recommendations in Utah. The committee includes about 30 individuals representing public agencies, faith-based groups, business people, advocacy groups and also has legislative and congressional support. The group has many of the goals outlined in TAL.

UPDATES FROM TASK GROUPS:

Marketing—Amanda Singer reported that two mailers have been sent directly to foster youth (16 and over) and these mailers will continue every six weeks. So far the topics have been the ETV funds and the “Just for Youth” Website. Other topics will include Medicaid, transitional support funds, driver’s education/license, Life Skill classes, and mentoring.

Evaluation—Kelly Colopy reported that this task group will work on three levels of evaluation beginning with a baseline study. They are in the process now of interviewing 35 youth from around the state. They are getting the youth’s perspective on services currently available, asking them if they have a plan and asking them if they are getting what they need. The group will compile this information when the interviews are completed and share that with the group.

Employment/Training/Education (ETE) Task Group—Youth-In-Custody (YIC) Sub-Committee—Barbara Thompson explained that this task group and sub-committee has now become two task groups. During the past year, ETE has concentrated especially on the employment and training aspect with DWS and their WIA youth providers. They will continue to work on those pathways with DCFS and Bob Haywood has been asked to chair that group. More emphasis will now be placed on Education and Youth-In-Custody and Marie Christman will chair this group. Mary Shumway had several other names of educators she suggested that would be helpful on this task group.

Employment/Training—Bob Haywood reported that each of the 5 regions are making good progress in putting together a good system for assisting youth get the career counseling and job training they need through DWS or the WIA youth providers. Northern Region has helped some of the other regions to learn of the pitfalls and helpful things they did in the pilot. Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) is also included in most of the regions. Rebecca Banner reported that the Salt Lake/Central region met last week and had excellent administrative support. They will meet again to finalize goals and proceed with their plan.

YIC/Education—Marie Christman is excused and Barbara Thompson reported that currently the data is being gathered by the YIC director, Travis Cook. As soon as the information is gathered from the schools, DCFS and JJS, the committee will meet again to determine what is needed to enhance the YIC program and help youth improve their education outcomes. Mary Shumway had several other names of educators she suggested that would be helpful on this task group.

Transition Planning and Out-Of-Home—Patti Van Wagoner reported that this task group has divided into three sub-committees in order to set the practice

model for older youth compatible with the 5 TAL strategies, standardize the life skills curriculum and update training throughout the state. The three sub committees are—Assessment/Transition Planning, Life Skills, and Out of Home. Each of these groups will come up with “Best Practice” models for older youth in order to train caseworkers, foster parents and providers to provide services statewide.

They will work specifically with YIC on the Life Skills curriculum and with Utah Foster Care Foundation on training providers. Kelly Peterson reported that a preliminary training for foster parents and providers will be in May when Pam Russell and Barbara Thompson will give an Orientation Training to foster parents.

Training Task Group—Midge Delavan and Vivian Brown reported that Phase II of the training with local partners will begin in May and June and go throughout the summer. (Phases III and IV will occur later in the year). The Phase II training handout was passed around and explained. Participants were asked to give any feedback to Vivian. The region DCFS and DWS leaders will decide locally what partners need to be included at this point then others will be added as needed in local areas. The local leaders will also decide upon the size and number of trainings to be held.

Housing Task Group—Richard Walker and his group have outlined a plan for coming up with a housing policy. Richard has spoken with each of the IL Coordinators and will meet with them individually to discuss the needs of youth in each community. Each region will look different and be flexible enough to meet the needs in that area. Richard will work with the AOG’s throughout the state and will also coordinate with the “Ten Year Plan to Eliminate Chronic Homelessness in Utah.”

Youth Leadership Task Group—Barbara Feaster reported that UFOSTERSuccess has received one of the mentoring grants and they are currently in the process of writing policies and procedures and putting the training together. Their goal is to teach the youth to contribute as well as make life-long connections. Gareldine Wright from Four Corners Behavioral Health has the other mentoring contract and reported that they have put together a handbook for mentors and for youth. The screening process is in place and they will be recruiting people beginning next week.

Lisa McDonald reported the group is working on Youth Councils and getting them going statewide. They will look at meeting in a different location and time that may work better for youth. They are planning with two other youth groups—Community of Caring and Utah Youth Conference on Service.

Aftercare Task Group—Pam Russell reported that this group felt the terminology used is very important and “aftercare” sounds too much like a

medical discharge from a hospital. Therefore, the group asked for a name change to "Young Adult Resource Network." (The Implementation Team voted to approve this change.) This group will also have three sub-committees that will work on specific tasks to improve conditions for youth who have left care. These groups are Health/Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Relationships, and the Support Network. More details of the tasks of this group will be reported at the next meeting.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Missy Larsen mentioned that the Emancipation Bill passed the House but died in committee and didn't get heard in the Senate. The bill will be introduced again next year.

The next TAL Implementation Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at 2:30pm in Room 304 at the Department of Human Services, 120 North 200 West in Salt Lake City.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF ATTENDING:

Richard Anderson	Bob Haywood
Mike Richardson	Lisa McDonald
Jane Lewis for Randy Bachman	Kelly Peterson
Kelly Colopy	Pam Russell
George Delavan	Mary Shumway
Midge Delavan	Patti VanWagoner
David Evans	Richard Walker
Vivian Brown for JJ Farrington	Jane Broadhead
Barbara Feaster	Amanda Singer
Katie Gregory	Barbara Thompson
Ron Harrell	

Excused:

Randy Bachman, Marie Christman, Vicki Cottrell, Pat Fleming, Stephen Jardine

TASK GROUP MEMBERS AND OTHER GUESTS ATTENDING:

Brandy McCachren	Steve Titensor
Rosa McFarland	Stacy Brubaker
Gareldine Wright	Patricia Bailey
Melissa Larsen	Kimi James
Rebecca Banner	Kristin Burnett
Bonnie Athas	Michelle McDonough
Roland Oliver	
Joe Leiker	
Pauline Zvonkovic	